

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 01048 300920Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DPW-01 IO-14

DRC-01 OMB-01 EUR-25 /119 W
----- 130475

P 300815Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9402

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS HONG KONG 1048

USIAC

FOR IOR/M IEA STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO RELEASE OF PARACEL POWS

1. THREE HONG KONG LEFTIST MORNING DAILIES TODAY EDITORIALIZED
ON CHINA'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RELEASE OF THE FIRST BATCH OF THE
PARACEL POW'S.

2. WEN WEI PAO CONFINED ITSELF TO STRESSING CHINA'S MANAGNANIMITY
TOWARD PRISONERS. TA KUNG POA FURTHER SUGGESTED THE SOVIET UNION
MIGHT BE BEHIND SAIGON'S TROUBLE-MAKING. NEITHER PAPER SINGLED
OUT THE AMERICAN PRISONER FOR COMMENT.

3. HONG KONG COMMERCIAL DAILY, HOWEVER, HAD THIS TO SAY:
"ALSO NOTEWORTHY IS THAT AN AMERICAN IS AMONG THOSE CAPTURED
DURING THE HSISHA BATTLE.

4. "THIS TOO IS NO COINCIDENCE. IT HAS BEEN A YEAR SINCE THE
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SIGNING OF THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT, BUT, AS THE PEKING

PEOPLE'S DAILY SAID IN A RECENT EDITORIAL, THE SAIGON 'THIEU
REGIME'S RECKLESSNESS IS APPARENTLY SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED
BY THE AMERICAN SIDE, ' AND 'THE U.S. HAS UNDER VARIOUS PRE-

TENSES KEPT IN SOUTH VIETNAM MANY MILITARY PERSONNEL IN
DISGUISE.'

5. "ISN'T THE AMERICAN CAPTURED AT HISISHA ONE OF THE 'MANY
MILITARY PERSONNEL IN DISGUISE?'"

6. OF THE NON-COMMUNIST CHINESE PRESS, SO FAR ONLY SING PAO
DAILY NEWS HAS OFFERED COMMENT. THE INDEPENDENT PAPER NOTED:

7. "IN A MATTER OF TEN DAYS THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ARE ALREADY
RELEASING THE PRISONERS.THIS SHOWS THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF
BEING IN CONFRONTATION WITH SOUTH VIETNAM...

8. "IN PARTICULAR, THE INCLUSION OF THE CAPTURED AMERICAN IN
THE FIRST BATCH OF PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED IS AIMED AT SPARING
THE UNITED STATES OF EMBARRASSMENT, SO THAT IT WON'T BECOME
INVOLVED."

IZENBERG

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